

HFC Committee

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Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 10:53 AM
To: HFC Committee
Subject: Item HFC-24 Feral Animal Management

Aloha Chair Riki Hokama

Healthy Families and Communities Committee

I am a Kahikinui homesteader for 20 years and I am greatly concerned about the Axis deer issue. I strongly encourage a plan and/or policy to be created to correctly deal with the management of the deer. Living in the remote area of Kahikinui poses many areas of concern. I have witnessed the management of the Axis deer going rogue in that a commercialized outfit has exploited the area resources and further has expanded to hunting cattle.

Those conducting the hunting for commercial sale have had a poor history of responsible methods and is the single issue that has prompted the creation of a second homestead association which was solely inspired to attention this issue. I am the Secretary of the Kahikinui Hawaiian Homestead Association and the subject matter of Axis deer is of continuing importance to the membership.

I am also the president and founder of Helekunihi Cultural Foundation which is comprised of 119 acres in Kahikinui (not Dhhhl land). The organization goals include native plant restoration and the efforts to reforest are dependent upon knowing that a trusted game and land management organization is ensuring game management schedules and crystal clear communication.

I look forward to the Healthy Families and Communities Committee working on policy that helps protect the integrity of those of us who choose homestead life of living off the grid so that we can feel safer.

Mahalo for the opportunity to give testimony.

Mahalo,

Donna Sterling